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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 August 1950

SUBJECT Volkspolizei in
the Burg Area

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VP Bereitschaft at Burg airfield.

1. A VP Bereitschaft of about 1,000 police was at the Burg Fliegerhorst in May 1950. Several VP men said that it was a tank unit, still in process of activation.
2. The Bereitschaft received three tanks, allegedly similar to the German Panther type, and three AT guns of about 75-mm caliber in mid-May 1950, [REDACTED] It was said that police were trained in driving the tanks, and that the training area, the former landing field, was used only at night.
3. The motor vehicles of the Bereitschaft included at least 12 Soviet trucks and four passenger cars.
4. The Bereitschaft was fully armed with model 98K carbines, submachine guns, model 42 machine guns, and medium mortars. Training with these weapons had been completed.

VP Bereitschaft in Waldfrieden near Burg.

5. A member of the VP Bereitschaft in Waldfrieden near Burg stated on 18 June 1950 that the unit had arrived there from Apollensdorf during the second half of April 1950. The VP infantry Bereitschaft previously stationed at Waldfrieden moved to Apollensdorf at the same time.
6. The Bereitschaft which had come from Apollensdorf was a tank unit that moved to Waldfrieden because there were no suitable tank training grounds in the Apollensdorf area.
7. The Bereitschaft had about 1,200 police and was organized into four Kommandos, each Kommando consisting of four 60-man Abteilungen.
8. In mid-June 1950 the Bereitschaft had five T-34 tanks, some full-track ammunition carriers and some 80-mm SP guns.

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9. The members of one Kommando were trained as tank drivers. The personnel of the other Kommandos were loaders and gunners. Some men were trained as tank commanders. The VP tank Bereitschaft held its firing practice at the Aitengrabow range. *

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Comment. The VP Bereitschaft at the Burg airfield and the one in Waldfrieden are the same unit. The VP Bereitschaft is stationed at the Waldfrieden settlement and at the Burg airfield, which constitute one billeting area. The information confirms the interchange of the Burg and Apollensdorf VP schools, as was reported in April 1950. The VP Bereitschaft now stationed in Burg is the 6th, which was previously identified as a tank unit.

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